United Nations A/52/359

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 September 1997

Original: English

Fifty-second session
Item 114 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

Status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and called upon all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority.

2. By its resolution 51/85 of 12 December 1996, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide all facilities and assistance necessary for the promotion of the Convention, through the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights and the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights; invited organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their efforts with a view to disseminating information on and promoting understanding of the Convention; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session an updated report on the status of the Convention. A similar resolution was adopted by the Commission on Human Rights on 3 April 1997 (resolution 1997/15).

3. As at 31 August 1997, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families had been ratified or acceded to by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Egypt, Morocco, the Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Uganda and signed by Chile and Mexico. The Convention will enter into force when at least 20 States have ratified or acceded to it.

4. In connection with the request of the General Assembly in paragraph 4 of its resolution 51/85, it may be recalled that a meeting of high-level government experts from the African region was convened by the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights in Addis Ababa from 14 to 17 May 1996, with assistance from the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity. The purpose of the meeting was to open a dialogue with States of that region not having adhered to international human rights treaties, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, in order to identify obstacles to ratification and to seek ways of overcoming them. Governmental experts from 17 States attended the meeting. A second meeting of high-level governmental experts, for the Asian and Pacific region, was held at Amman from 1 to 4 September 1997 with the assistance of the Government of Jordan.

* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

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